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TYPICAL

Mont. clippings

JUN 18 1944 (Montana file)

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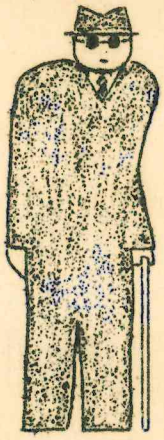
THE TYPICAL BLIND PERSON



67 YEARS OLD MALE WHITE MARRIED BORN IN THE U.S.

35 YEARS IN MONTANA LIVES IN A RURAL AREA POOR HEALTH

WAS A FARMER BEFORE BECOMING BLIND PARTIALLY BLIND PAST 8 YRS

VISION IMPAIRED BY DISEASE OR OLD AGE NO SPECIAL TRAINING

COMPLETED 5th GRADE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL NO SCHOOL FOR BLIND

SUPPORTED BY AID TO NEEDY BLIND OR OLD AGE ASSISTANCE GRANT

CANNOT READ WITH GLASSES CANNOT READ BRAILLE

NOT INTERESTED IN A TALKING BOOK MACHINE LISTENS TO RADIO

HAS NO DESIRE TO BE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED

617.7
Pam 6

STATE OF MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
DIVISION OF STATISTICS AND RESEARCH

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State of Montana
Department of Public Welfare
Division of Statistics and Research

BLIND SURVEY IN MONTANA

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

As of February 24, 1944 the Census of the Blind in Montana reported 735 persons. It is probable that there are about 40 more blind persons in the State for whom no schedule was returned.

Approximately 15 out of every 10,000 persons in Montana are blind--partially, totally, or with light perception only.

NOV 27 1944

Only two counties, Granite and Wibaux, reported no blind persons. Cascade County had the greatest number of blind persons, 78.

62.2% of all blind persons are male, 37.8% are female. In 1940, of the total State population, 53.6% was male and 46.4% female.

According to the 1940 Census, the population of Montana was 37.8% urban. Of the blind reported in the survey, 42.3% live in urban areas.

30.5% of the blind are single, 34.7% are married, 26.2% are widowed, 5.6% are divorced, and 3.0% are separated.

Of the 735 blind persons in the State, 24.6% are totally blind, 22.5% can distinguish between light and dark only, and 52.9% are partially blind. 1 out of every 5 blind persons can read with the aid of glasses.

White persons constitute 85.8% of the total blind population; 11.6% of all the blind are Indian; 1.9% are Negro; and the remaining 0.7% are Mexican and Filipino. The 1940 Census of Montana population indicated that 96.6% was white, 3% was Indian, and the remaining 0.4% was made up of Negroes and others. The 1940 Census reported Mexicans as white, and if this method were followed in the racial classification of the blind, the percentages would be: White, 86.4%; Indian, 11.6%; Negro, 1.9%; and Other Race (Filipino), 0.1%.

26.5% of the blind were born in Montana, 53.7% were born in some other State and 19.8% are foreign-born.

Half of the blind persons have lived less than 35 years in Montana, half have lived in the State more than 35 years. The median age of all blind persons is 67 years. Totally blind persons have a median age of 63 years. The median age of persons having a visual acuity of light perception only is 67 years, and the partially blind's median age is 66 years.

11% of all the persons reported have been blind "since birth." "Industrial accidents" resulted in blindness among 2.2% of the blind, and "Other accidents" caused blindness in 9.2% of the persons. "Other causes" was the reason for blindness in 77.6% of the persons.

The median age of persons blind since birth is 22 years. The median ages of the other groups are as follows: "industrial accident" - 47 years; "other accident" - 58; and "other causes" - 69 years.

Half of all the blind persons in Montana have been blind for less than 9 years, and half have been blind for more than 9 years.

The typical blind person has completed the 5th grade of school. 34.5% of all the blind have not completed the first grade of school. Among the white persons, 31.2% are reported as having no formal education. 58.5% of the blind Indians have not completed the first grade. 13.4% of the blind have attended or are attending a School for the Blind. The average blind person whose age is 67 years, is supported by an Aid to Needy Blind grant or an Old Age Assistance grant. Of all the blind, 17.3% are self-supported; 40.6% receive an Aid to Needy Blind grant; 18.8% are supported entirely by relatives; 19.1% receive Old Age Assistance; and the remaining 4.2% are supported by a combination of self-effort and relatives, by public and private institutions, by other agencies and by other means.

15.7% of the blind read Braille, 3 persons read Moon or New York Point. 10.5% of all the persons reported do not read Braille but are interested in learning.

Talking Book Machines are used by 12.7% of the blind in Montana, 19% of the blind do not have the use of a Talking Book Machine but are interested. The remain-

ing 68.3% are not interested.

75% of the blind have the use of a radio. 16.6% know how to typewrite. 20.6% can read with the aid of glasses.

Interest in obtaining employment was indicated by 17.7% of the blind persons; 14.4% in full-time employment, 3.3% in part-time employment.

Slightly more than half, (50.5%), of all blind persons have no other handicap in addition to blindness. The percentage of persons with handicaps other than blindness increases as the age of the group increases. 23% of the persons under 20 years of age have additional handicaps; 35.2% of those between 20 and 44 years of age reported some handicaps in addition to blindness; 40.8% of the blind between the ages of 45 and 64 years have secondary handicaps; and 62.2% of all persons 65 years of age and over have other handicaps in addition to blindness.

12.4% of the blind persons are gainfully employed and 5.6% are students in public schools or in the School for the Blind. Of the persons gainfully employed, 38.5% are engaged in farming or ranching, 13.2% are professional people, 12.1% have managerial and official occupations, 11% are salespersons or vending stand operators, and the remaining 25.2% are in other occupations.

Before becoming blind, 52% of the 735 persons included in the Survey were gainfully employed. Of this 52%, 39.5% were farmers or ranchers, 10.5% were general laborers, 9.4% were miners, 5.2% were professional persons, 4.7% were in managerial and official occupations, 4.7% were employed in construction occupations; 5% had manufacturing and mechanical occupations, 3.9% were in domestic and personal service, and the remaining 17.1% were otherwise employed.

13.5% of the blind in Montana have had some special training. These people are chemists and pharmacists, bookkeepers and clerical office workers, music teachers and musicians, piano and organ tuners, mechanics and repairmen, school teachers nurses, salesmen, stenographers and typists, handicraft workers, etc.

Blind- Montana ✓